(b) if so, Governments' reactions in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of people got employment through service and industry in the field of communications; and

(d) if so, the number of people who were working in service sector and industry (construction) sector under communications sector till December, 2002 and the number of people employed in private sector, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The overall expansion and development during the last five years in the country had been extra-ordinary except the achievements of VPTs (Village Public Telephone) due to non-availability of appropriate resources.

(c) It is a fact that the growth in the communications Sector has resulted in direct as well as indirect growth of employment potentials.

(d) The total staff employed in the Government sector both (Service & PSUs) as on 31.12.2002 in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is 3,52,751, in addition to this 7,56,638 no. of PCOs (Public Call Office) have been provided during the last 5 years. Majority of these have given on franchisees basis. This has generated very large employment opportunities in the service sector. In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited the total Number of staff is 58,343 as on 31.12.2002. The man power of Indian Telephone Industry Ltd. is 19,782 as on 31.01.03. So far as private sector is concerned, the number of persons employed in IT enabled services has been estimated as over one lakh. Information for other private sector employment is not maintained.

Operation of Telecom Department in Kashmir

210. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Central Government Departments

including Telecom Department stopped operation in Kashmir for some time during the peak years of militancy;

(b) whether Government are aware that all the Central Government Departments stopped operations in Kashmir since 1996, if not, earlier; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the reasons as to why the Chief General Manager Telecom operates from Jammu all the year round?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Postal Headquarters at Jabalpur

211. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in setting up of Postal Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Headquarters would be set up at Jabalpur itself; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There is already a Circle Postal Head Quarter for the State of Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal under the charge of Chief Postmaster General, Madhya Pradesh Circle.

(b) There is no proposal for setting up Postal Head Quarter at Jabalpur.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.